Hypotheneous hampei invloving cultural, chemical, biological and quarantine measures and successful management of this pest below economic threshold level in infested areas.

Trade Barriers by Developed Countries.

2781. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have expressed concern over the increasing propensity towards erecting new trade barriers by the developed countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate new strategy to face the increasing trade barriers by the developed countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA KRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Our strategy for encouraging other countries to remove trade barriers consist of the following elements:

(i) The procedure of dispute settlement through the World Trade Organisation;

(ii) Bilateral contacts, especially through the mechanism of Joint Commissions;

(iii) Diplomatic activity through our .

Missions abroad;

(iv) Raising the issues in the appropriate WTO Committees.

Classification of Rice into Two Categories

2782. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reclassify the non-basmati rice into two categories in place of the existing single category;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantages of the new classification?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA KRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir. As per the existing norms of classification of rice for Central Pool procurement, non scented (non-basmati) varieties of rice are already classified in two groups viz; Grade 'A' and common.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rubber and Tea Cultivation in Assam

2783. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated target of production, total area coverage of rubber and tea cultivation in the State of Assam during the Ninth Plan;

(b) the total annual production of tea and rubber in Assam during last five years and its percent contribution to the national exports; and

(c) the details of the package of incentives being provided by the Tea Board to large, medium and small tea growers alongwith criteria for such incentives?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA KRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The estimated target of production of Tea in the State of Assam by the terminal year of Ninth Plan period is 500 Million kgs. The production of rubber for Assam at the end of IX Five Year Plan is estimated at 5,000 tonnes. The estimated target of total area coverage of tea cultivation and planting of rubber in Assam during the Ninth Plan period is 20,000 ha. and 3500 ha. respectively.